



# News Release

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Office of Inspector General  
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For Release

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## **SENTENCING IN MOON ROCK SCHEME**

On May 4, 2000, Ronald Trochelmann of Atlanta, Georgia was sentenced to six months in jail, 10 months community confinement, 3 years supervised release, ordered to pay a \$4,000 fine and a special assessment of \$100. On May 16, 2000, Brian Trochelmann of Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced to three years probation, ordered to pay a \$4,000 fine, complete 150 hours of community service, and pay a special assessment of \$100.

Both Ronald and Brian Trochelmann were sentenced for their role in attempting to auction an alleged lunar sample that they claimed their father received from the Apollo 12 mission. The Trochelmann brothers attempted to auction the alleged lunar sample at the Phillips Auction House, New York, NY. The sample was seized prior to the auction. Examination by the Lunar Curator, Johnson Space Center, NASA, determined the alleged lunar sample was not genuine.

This investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General, Office of Criminal Investigations and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Teresa Pesce, Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of New York.

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